

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as originally filed as follows:

- 1) Amend the paragraphs beginning on page 2, line 10 and ending at page 3, line 16, as follows:

A portable stand according to the invention, in particular a portable stand for holding and supporting video cameras, photo-cameras and other optical recording devices, consisting of an oblong basic body; a lower handle mounted to the lower end of the basic body by means of a first holding element, wherein the lower handle has a fixing hook which engages a ~~pin-like~~ pin device of the first holding element and the fixing hook has an at least in parts threaded ~~pin-like~~ pin extension for receiving a first forked joint and a fixing screw, wherein the fixing screw is led through a grip surface of the first handle and the first forked joint is pressed onto or released from the first holding element through turning the grip surface, in such a way that the position of the first handle is adjustable and fixable as desired; an upper handle positioned between the lower and the upper end of the basic body by means of a second holding element, wherein the upper handle exhibits a fixing hook which engages a ~~pin-like~~ pin device of the second holding device and the fixing hook has an at least in parts threaded ~~pin-like~~ pin extension for receiving a second forked joint and a fixing screw, wherein the fixing screw is led through a grip surface of the second handle and the second forked joint is pressed onto or released from the second holding device through turning the grip surface, in such a way that the position of the second handle is adjustable and fixable as desired, wherein the first and/or the second grip surface of the first and/or second handle is detachable through unscrewing the respective fixing screw and a connection plate provided at the upper end of the basic body for receiving the device to be carried.

The inventive design of the portable stand allows for releasing, adjusting and fixing the positions of the first and the second handle solely by turning the respective grip

surfaces of the handles. It is no longer required to put the stand down. Moreover the detachability of the two handles allows for the present portable stand to be used in a highly versatile way. It is e.g. possible to attach an adapter for a remote control unit for a video camera, a photo-camera or other optical recording devices which are mounted on a portable stand to the ~~pin-like~~ pin extension of the fixing hook of the first and/or the second handle. It is also possible to attach further fixing devices for fixing the first and/or the second handle to external elements. These external elements may be e.g. a plug-in belt bow or a base stand. The plug-in belt bow may exhibit a ball-headed link for attachment to the connection device. It guarantees that the stand according to the invention can be carried over a very long period of time, since an optimum balance of the weights of the stand and the device to be carried is given.

Furthermore, it is possible that the ~~pin-like~~ pin extension of the fixing hook of the first and/or the second handle serves for receiving and fixing an adapter for a monitor for the video camera, the photo-camera or the other optical recording devices which are mounted on the portable stand. Also other elements which serve a purpose in the employment of video cameras, photo-cameras or other optical recording devices may be attached instead of the first and/or second handle of the portable stand.

2) At page 4, line 20, after the description of Fig. 6, add the following paragraphs:

Fig. 7 is a view of a portable stand according to the invention, and including a plug-in belt bow.

Fig. 8 is a view of a portable stand according to the invention, and including a base stand.

3) Amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 22 and ending on page 5, at line 12, as follows:

Fig. 1 is a side view of the portable stand 10, wherein the portable stand serves in particular for holding and supporting video cameras, photo-cameras and other optical recording devices. The portable stand 10 consists of an oblong basic body 14, a lower handle 12 mounted to the lower end of the basic body 14 by means of a first holding

element 24, wherein the lower handle 12 has a fixing hook 62 which engages a ~~pin-like~~ pin device 26 of the first holding element 24. The fixing hook 62 exhibits an at least in parts threaded ~~pin-like~~ pin extension 74 for receiving a first forked joint 28 (see in particular Fig. 3). The ~~pin-like~~ pin extension 74 moreover serves for receiving a fixing screw 32 which is led through the grip surface 30 of the first handle 12. By turning the grip surface 30 the first forked joint 28 is pressed onto or released from the first holding element 24, in such a way that the position of the first handle 12 is adjustable and fixable as desired. Furthermore, the portable stand 10 has an upper handle 22 provided between the lower end and the upper end of the basic body 14 by means of a second holding element 34. The upper handle 22 equally has a fixing hook 64 which engages a ~~pin-like~~ pin device 36 of the second holding element 34 (see also Fig. 2). The fixing hook 64 has an at least in parts threaded ~~pin-like~~ pin extension 66 for receiving a second forked joint 38 and a fixing screw 42. The fixing screw 42 is led through the grip surface 40 of the second handle 22. Turning the grip surface 40 causes the second forked joint 38 to be pressed onto or released from the second holding element 34. This renders the position of the second handle 22 adjustable and fixable as desired. Moreover, one can see that the first and/or the second grip surface 30, 40 of the first and/or the second handle 12, 22 is detachable through unscrewing the respective fixing screw 32, 42 (see also Figs. 2 and 3). The portable stand 10 in addition has a connection plate 24 25 attached to the upper end of the basic body 14 for receiving the video camera, the photo-camera or the other optical recording devices to be carried.

- 4) Amend the paragraphs beginning on page 5, line 25 and ending on page 6, at line 12, as follows:

Fig. 2 shows an exploded view of the upper handle 22 of the stand 10. One can see that the second handle 22 is fixed to the holding element 34 and in particular to the ~~pin-like~~ pin device 36 of the second holding element 34 by means of the fixing hook 64. For releasing and fixing the second handle 22 to the holding element 34 the second forked joint 38 is pressed onto or released from the second holding element 34 by means of the handle 40 which is connected via the fixing screw 42 with the fixing hook 64 or its

~~pin-like~~ pin extension 66. Two collars 50, 52 of different sizes are positioned between the second forked joint 38 and the handle 40.

Moreover one recognizes that a pin 60 which is inserted at the side of the ~~pin-like~~ pin device 36 into the holding element 34, contributes to the stabilization of the position of the second handle 22. The holding element 34 is fixed by means of a pin 58 which engages a suitable opening of the projecting part 82 of the fixing sleeve 44, to the latter (see also Fig. 1). The connection plate 24 25 is attached by means of a screw 68 to a plate holder 54, wherein the plate holder 54 is plugged onto the upper end of the oblong basic body 14 and fixed thereto by means of a pin 72 which is insertable into a suitable opening of the upper end of the basic body 14. A sealing ring 56 is positioned between the plate holder 54 and the second holding element 34. Moreover, at the connection plate 24 25 connection means 70 are provided which serve for mounting the video camera, the photo-camera or a different optical recording device. It is also possible that the connection plate 24 25 exhibits a snap or bayonet catch for detachably fastening the device to be carried.

5) Amend the paragraphs beginning on page 6, line 17 and ending on page 7, at line 14, as follows:

Fig. 3 shows an exploded view of the lower handle 12 of the stand 10. One can recognize again that the lower handle 12 exhibits a fixing hook 62 which engages the ~~pin-like~~ pin device 26 of the first holding element 24. Therein the first holding element 24 is plugged onto the lower end of the basic body 14, in particular onto the lower end of the component element 16 and fixed by means of a pin 96 which engages a suitable opening 80 of the component element 16. Moreover, one recognizes that the fixing hook 62 comprises the ~~pin-like~~ pin extension 74 with a thread. The first forked joint 28 as well as the fixing screw 32 is screwed onto this thread. Two collars 76, 78 with different diameters are positioned between handle 30 and forked joint 28. Turning the grip surface 30 of the first handle 12 causes the forked joint 28 to be pressed onto or released from the first holding element 24. This renders the position of the first handle 12 adjustable and fixable as desired. One can see that the first lower handle 12 can be swiveled by 90°.

Fig. 4 shows a view of the oblong basic body 14 of the stand 10. One recognizes that the basic body 14 comprises three component elements 16, 18, 20, wherein the component elements 16, 18, 20 are connected with each other via two connecting means 46, 48. The upper end of the basic body 14 which faces the connecting plate 24 25 contains the fixing sleeve 44 with the projecting part 82. Herein the fixing sleeve 44 is slidable on the basic body 14.

Fig. 5 shows a view of an adapter 84 which can be screwed onto the ~~pin-like~~ pin extensions 66, 74 of the fixing hooks 62, 64 of the first and/or the second handle 12, 22. The adapter 84 herein serves for receiving and fixing a remote control unit 90 (see Fig. 6) for the video camera, the photo-camera or the other optical recording devices mounted on the stand. However, it is also possible that instead of the remote control unit 90 a further fixing device serves for fixing the first and/or the second handle 12, 22 to external elements. Herein the external element may be a plug-in belt bow or a base stand (not shown). Equally it is possible that the adapter serves for connecting a monitor for the video camera, the photo-camera or the other optical recording devices. One recognizes that the adapter 84 exhibits a grip surface 86 and an oblong basic body 88. The adapter 84 exhibits an internal thread so that it can be screwed onto the ~~pin-like~~ pin extensions 66, 74.